

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION INR-07

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S E C R E T PORT LOUIS 0133

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1,2
TAGS: PFOR TW MP
SUBJECT: ROC'S UNOFFICIAL RELATIONS

REF: STATE 31454

1. THE ROC, APPARENTLY FOLLOWING ITS PRACTICES ELSEWHERE, ESTABLISHED AN UNOFFICIAL OFFICE IN MAURITIUS IN SEPTEMBER, 1974, KNOWN AS THE FONG-KUO FISHERIES OFFICE. THE LOCAL OFFICE, WHICH OPERATES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE TAIWAN FISHERIES BUREAU, OFFERS BOTH CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL FACILITATIVE SERVICES BY ISSUING VISITORS VISAS AND HANDLING TAIWAN'S FISHING FLEET MATTERS. THE OFFICE ALSO CONDUCTS AN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING OPERATION ON PRC

ACTIVITIES IN MAURITIUS.

2. THE OFFICE IS STAFFED BY TWO ROC GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: CHAO HSING, A RETIRED ROC MAJOR GENERAL WHO WORKS FOR LHE ROC NATIONAL SECURITY BUREAU; AND LIAO CHING-HING, WHO APPEARS TO BE A LEGITIMATE ROC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE, AND WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS THE ROC'S CONSUL IN CAPE TOWN.

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3. THE OPENING OF THE ROC OFFICE, WHICH OCCURRED OVER TWO YEARS AFTER MAURITIUS BROKE RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN IN EARLY 1972, WAS SPONSORED BY JEAN AH CHUEN, FORMER MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ONE OF THE LEADING PRO-TAIWAN SPOKESMEN IN THE LOCAL SINO-MAURITIAN COMMUNITY. (THIS COMMUNITY IS ESTIMATED TO BE 28,000 STRONG, AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE ABOUT 70 PERCENT PRO-PRC.) CHUEN, HOWEVER,

WOULD NOT HAVE ACTED ALONE IN PERMITTING THE ROC PRESENCE
IN MAURITIUS AND FINAL APPROVAL UNDOUBTEDLY CAME FROM
PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM.

4. DURING THE DECEMBER 1976 ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR THE
NEW LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, THE EX-OFFICIO ROC OFFICE CAME
UNDER FIRE IN THE "CHIN PAO," A LOCAL PRO-PRC CHINESE
LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER. THE PAPER CHARGED THAT THE "UNDER-
GROUND TAIWANESE CONSUL" WAS GIVING MONEY (ALLEGEDLY US
\$50,000) TO PRO-TAIWAN SINO-MAURITIAN CANDIDATES. THIS,
TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, IS THE ONLY ATTACK ON THE ROC
PRESENCE IN MAURITIUS THAT HAS APPEARED IN PRESS OR
ELSEWHERE.

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Message Attributes

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